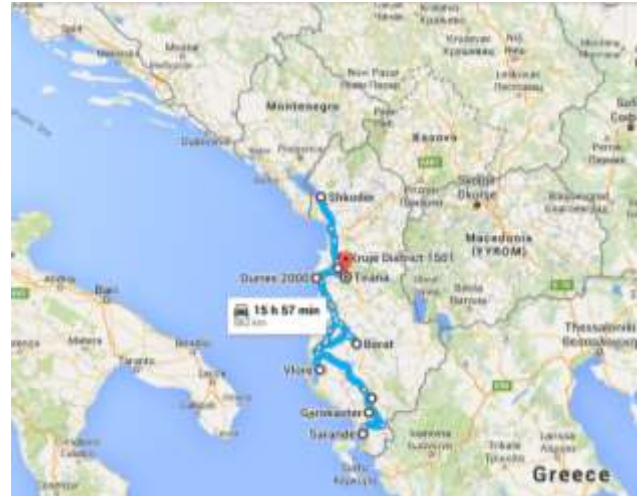


CLASSIC ALBANIA TOUR

- DAY 01:** (FLIGHT) - TIA APT – KRUJE (20KM)
- DAY 02:** KRUJE – SHKODER –DURRES (190 KM – 4h)
- DAY 03:** DURRES–ARDENICE-APOLLONI–VLORE (167km– 3h)
- DAY 04:** VLORE – BUTRINT – SARANDA (170 km – 4h: 35’)
- DAY 05:** SARANDA - GJIROKASTER (55 km – 1h: 30’ driving)
- DAY 06:** GJIROKASTER- (COBO WINERY) – BERAT (160 km – 3h:30’)
- DAY 07:** BERAT – TIRANA (122 km – 2h 30’ driving)
- DAY 08:** TIRANA – TIA APT (20KM – 1H)



Overview

This small country hides so much beauty to be discovered!

An important gateway to the Balkan Peninsula, Albania's ever-growing road network provides juncture to reach its neighbors in north south, east, and west. Albania is within close proximity to all the major European capitals with short two or three hour flights that are available daily. Yet untouched nature combined with cultural mysteries creates a unique destination. Albania's landscape with many clean and pristine beaches, spectacular mountains, scenic river valleys, and many other natural sites will surprise visitors. Tourists can see and experience Albania's ancient past and traditional culture. Throughout the country there are newly discovered and exciting archaeological sites, preserved Illyrian and medieval castles, as well as Byzantine churches and monasteries which contain rich collection of frescoes and icons. Albanian cuisine offers a truly unique blend of Mediterranean flavors. "East meets West" in many discernable ways throughout Albanian culture, but this is nowhere more evident than in the cuisine. Last but not least the warm hospitality of the Albanians, known worldwide, will make every traveler feel at home.

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DAY 01: TIA APT – KRUJE (20 km – 30' driving)

- Welcome in the Airport

PLEASE ADVISE YOUR FLIGHT DETAILS IN ADVANCE

Meeting with local guide, get the bus a drive to Kruja

First day program depend on flight time

*POSSIBILITY TO MEET LOCAL FAMILY IN THIS DAY, IF TIME PROMISE *

-Dinner in hotel

HOTEL 4* ACCOMODATION

DAY 02: KRUJE – SHKODER –DURRES (190 KM – 4h driving time)

Kruje – Shkoder (82km 1h:30' driving)

Shkoder Durres (105 km - 2h :30' driving)

08:30 - After breakfast in Hotel check out and continue with Kruja tour
KRUJA is a medieval town located 32 km northwest of Tirana and 20 minutes from Tirana international Airport.

In Kruja you can visit national ethnographic museum and Skanderbeg museum, both located in Kruja castle. It was from this fortress that Albania's hero – George Kastrioti Skanderbeg – defended the country from Ottoman invasion over a period spanning three decades. From the castle you have views of the Adriatic Sea. Kruja is one of Albania's most important and popular tourist attractions.



VISIT

- **KRUJA CASTLE**
- **MUSEUM OF GJERGJ KASTRIOTI SKANDERBEG**
- **OLD BAZAAR**

11:30 – Get the bus and drive to another interesting site, known as the “capital of north Albania.

Shkodra, it is one of the oldest cities of Albania, founded in the 4th century B.C. as the center of the Labeat tribe of Illyrians. Shkodra's main tourist attraction today is Rozafa Castle, surrounded by the waters of three rivers, the Drini, Buna and Kiri. The castle bears a popular local legend. But worth to be visited is also the city center, the Marubi Atelier of Photography and Mesi Bridge.



VISIT

- **ROZAFI CASTLE**

Lunch Possibility with local products

After tour drive to City of Durres

***DINNER IN RESTAURANT WITH OUR BEST SUGGESTION * HOTEL 4* ACCOMODATION**

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DAY 03: DURRES – ARDENICE - APOLLONI – VLORE (167 km – 3h driving)

Durres – Apollonia (90 km 1h:30' driving)

Apollonia – Ardenica Monastir (22 km – 30' driving)

Ardenica monastir - Vlora (55 km – 1 h driving)

07:00 - Breakfast in the hotel

08:30 - Before driving south Albania visit Durres city

Durrës: the biggest seaport of the country. It is the most ancient city in Albania, with almost 3,000 years of history, foundation dates back to 627 B.C. The most important attraction in Durrësi is the amphitheater of the Roman Emperor Adrian with 15,000 seats, the second biggest amphitheater in the Balkans. Also the Archeological Museum is one of the most important of its kind and is of great interest to visitors. In addition to its historical value, Durrësi is also a beautiful place for family vacation, due to its sandy beaches, hotels and metropolitan feel.



VISIT

➤ ROMAN AMPHITHEATER

10:30 – Next stop will be The Monastery of Ardenica (1 h driving from Durres)

It is a Byzantine structure consists of the Saint Mary Church, the Saint Triad chapel, the konake, the oil mill, the oven and the stall. The monastery of Ardenica is known as a place where our National GjergjKastriotiScandarbeg got married with Princess Andronika Arianiti.

13:00 – Time for lunch enjoying local cuisine /OPTIONAL

15:00 – Afternoon visit Apollonia Archeological Park

Was an ancient city in Illyria, located on the right bank of the Aous River (todayVjosë River), founded in 588 BCE by Greek colonists from Corfu and Corinth, on a site initially occupied by Illyrian tribes. Apollonia flourished during the period of Roman rule in the area and was home to a renowned school of philosophy. The city began to decline in the 3rd century CE when its harbor began silting up as a result of an earthquake. Cicero, the famed Roman Orator, was captivated by the beauty of Apollonia and in his Philippics, referred to it as "magna urbs et gravis," or "great and important city." Today the site can easily be accessed from the nearby city of Fier and offers both unique views of the Adriatic coastline as well as an extensive collection of historical and archaeological items of interest.



17:00 – Leave Apollonia for overnight in Vlora

DINNER IN HOTEL

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DAY 04: VLORE – BUTRINT – SARANDA (170 km – 4h:35' driving)

Vlore – Butrinti Archeological park (150 km 4h driving)

Butrinti – Saranda (20 km – 35' driving)

07:00 – Breakfast in the hotel

After check out from hotel, short panoramic tour to the second largest port in Albania, Vlorë

Vlorë dates back to the 6th century B.C., when it was known as Aulona. Today most interesting sights in Vlorë include the Independence Museum (in the headquarters building of the first government), the History Museum, and the Ethnographic Museum. Among the religious objects in Vlorë, the most important is the Mosque of Muradie, built in 1542 by the chief architect of the Ottoman Empire, MimarSinan, the constructor of the famous Suleymaniye Mosque, Istanbul. Also, a prominent hill above the city is home to the Bektashi Tekke of KuzumBabai. The site offers an amazing view of the city of Vlorë, the peninsula of Karaburun, the island of Sazan, and the lagoon of Narta.



10:00 – After that continue the trip to Saranda through the amazing Albania Riviera

Albanian Riviera running along the Ionian Sea, begins south of Llogara National Park, continues down along the coast through the villages of Borsh, Himara, Qeparo, and ends at Lukovë. The area is a major nightlife, ecotourism, and elite retreat destination in Albania. It features traditional Mediterranean villages, ancient castles, Orthodox churches, secluded turquoise beaches, mountain passes, seaside canyons, coves, free flowing rivers, underwater fauna, caves, and orange, lemon, and olive groves.

VISIT:

- **STOP FOR PHOTOS**
- **ALI PASHA CASTLE**

It is named after Ali Pasha of Tepelenë who resided there until 1820. The current fortress was rebuilt in 1819 from its surface with 3 towers. Until 1820 it was the second residence of Ali Pashe Tepelena. The castle described and pictured is popularly known as 'The Triangular Fortress'. Built under Venetian dominion in the late 15th or early 16th century, it provided a stronghold for the Venetians on Corfu to exploit fishing, grazing, olives and timber in and around Butrint.

Late afternoon arrive in Saranda

Check in hotel and free time to explore the city

DINNER IN HOTEL OR LOCAL RESTAURANT

HOTEL 4* ACCOMODATION



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DAY 05: SARANDA - GJIROKASTER (55 km – 1h:30' driving)

Saranda - Gjirokastra (55 km – 1h:30' driving)

07:00 – Breakfast in hotel

08:30 – Drive to Butrint National Park

Butrint, ancient Buthrotum, is a UNESCO World Heritage site located in southwest Albania. Inhabited since prehistoric times, Butrint has been the site of a Greek colony, a Roman city and a bishopric. Following a period of prosperity under Byzantine administration, then a brief occupation by the Venetians, the city was abandoned in the late Middle Ages after marshes formed in the area. The present archaeological site is a repository of ruins representing each period in the city's development. The National Park comprises a high diversity of natural, semi-natural and artificial habitats, such as freshwater marshes, reed beds, Mediterranean forests and maquis, arable lands and fruit-tree terraces, as well as coastal waters with rocky and sandy coast, open halophytic lands, etc. These habitats shelter a high diversity of animals and plants, including species of global and regional concern, which make the Butrint area one of the most important areas for biodiversity in Albania.



11:00 – Leave Butrint to visit another UNESCO site, Gjirokastra city of stone.

Gjirokastra perched on the eastern side of the Wide Mountain (Mali i Gjërrë), the city began as a fourth century castle, which is today the greatest castle in the whole country. Inside the fortress is the Museum of Weapons, where weapons of different periods up until the Second World War are displayed. Gjirokastra is known as "The City of Stone," and some of the main tourist attractions are old houses, built by stone to resemble small castles, and streets paved with cobblestone. While visiting, you can visit the Ethnographic Museum, located in the house where the former communist dictator Enver Hoxha was born.



VISIT

- **CASTLE**
- **ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM**
- **VISIT OF WELLKNOWNED ISMAIL KADARE HOUSE**

After the visits check in Hotel

DINNER IN HOTEL OR LOCAL RESTAURANT

HOTEL 4* ACCOMODATION

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DAY 06: GJIROKASTER– BERAT (160 km – 3h:30' driving)

Gjirokastra - BERAT (160 km – 3h:30' driving)

07:00 – Breakfast in hotel

08:30 – Check out from hotel, meet for the next UNESCO site Berat

BERAT

The 2,413 years-old city known as Antipatrea, is under the protection of UNESCO. Berat is a treasure-trove of Albanian history, culture and a testament to the country's tradition of religious harmony. The ensemble of the Byzantine churches in Berati is extraordinary, there is the Byzantine Church of ShënMëhilli (Saint Michael), Church of Shën Maria e Vllahernës (Saint Mary of Blachernaebuil in XIII century), the Church of ShënTriadha (The Holy Trinity), the post-Byzantine monumental Cathedral of Shën Maria (Saint Mary) today houses a museum of works by the famous iconographers of the 16th century: Onufri and his son Nikolla. There are over 100 icons on display and they also include works of other artists such as Joan Çetiri, Onufër Qiprioti and many anonymous painters. Ottomans occupation has left its mark, you can visit Xhamia e Kuqe (The Red Mosque) inside the castle, the Xhamia e Plumbit (1555), (The Lead Mosque), XhamiaMbret (built in 1481) (The King Mosque), and the Xhamia e Beqarëve (1872).



VISIT

- **CASTLE**
- **ONUFRİ MUSEUM**

VISIT OF COBO WINERY /

After the visits check in the Hotel, Berat

Accommodation and overnight *EXTRA PAYMENT * 8 EURO PP /DEGUSTATION

DINNER IN HOTEL OR LOCAL RESTAURANT

HOTEL 4* ACCOMODATION



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DAY 07: BERAT – TIRANA (122 km – 2h:30' driving)

BERAT -TIRANA (122 km – 2h:30' driving)

07:00 – Breakfast in hotel

09:00 – Check out, meet and drive to capital city Tirana

On the way in Durres, we will stop for visit in local farm

11:30 – Upon arrival start exploring this vibrant city

Tirana, the heart and capital of Albania, like all other European metropolises has a never-ending movement and energy. The journey might begin by visiting the key spots such as SheshiSkënderbej, Mosque of Et'hemBey (built between 1798 and 1812), the 35 m high Kulla e Sahatit (the Watch Tower), castle of the Roman emperor Justinian (A.D. 520), the monumental Tomb of Kapllan Pasha and the Ura e Tabakëve. A visit to the National History Museum, the Archeological Museum, and the National Gallery of the Arts will leave wonderful memories.



VISIT

- **NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM**
- **ET'HEM BEYMOSQUE**
- **THE WATCH TOWER**
- **URA E TABAKËVE**

Optional for the afternoon might be traveling by cable car
/OPTIONAL 8.00 EURO /PERSON

Check in hotel and overnight

DAY 08: TIRANA – TIA APT

Breakfast in hotel, free time for shopping

AT 13:00 our driver guide will transfer to Airport, finish of the services



THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING US! WE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

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